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FARM LABOR REPORT

1957



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FOREWORD

In an area where temperature spread of 187 degrees has been recorded and an average annual rainfall of 15 inches (13 in plains area, 18 in mountains) is considered normal, farming practices which have worked out must be performed with skill and judgment. Rainfall farming areas include 7/8 of the cropland in Montana. The difference between drouth and adequacy of moisture can be in timing rather than amount, and the difference in success or crop failure can be the degree of skill of application of techniques for utilization of every available drop of moisture.

Each year brings improvement in the tools for doing this job, but improved tools call for higher investment, with greater investment it is only practical to work more ground and strive for higher production to reduce the unit cost. This can be achieved only if the tools are worked with a degree of skill that produces results at the top level they are designed for. With the necessity of getting the work done and done on time, the farm operator rarely has time to train the inexperienced worker during regular farming seasons.

This means that the skill needed by workers is constantly increasing although not at the same rate from farm to farm. Employment Service personnel must also keep broadening their knowledge of practices to assure that the demands of the job and the skills of the workers are properly matched. This we are constantly striving to do, so that the best possible service can be rendered the employer and the worker. If this is done every consumer of the products of agriculture benefits in the long run.

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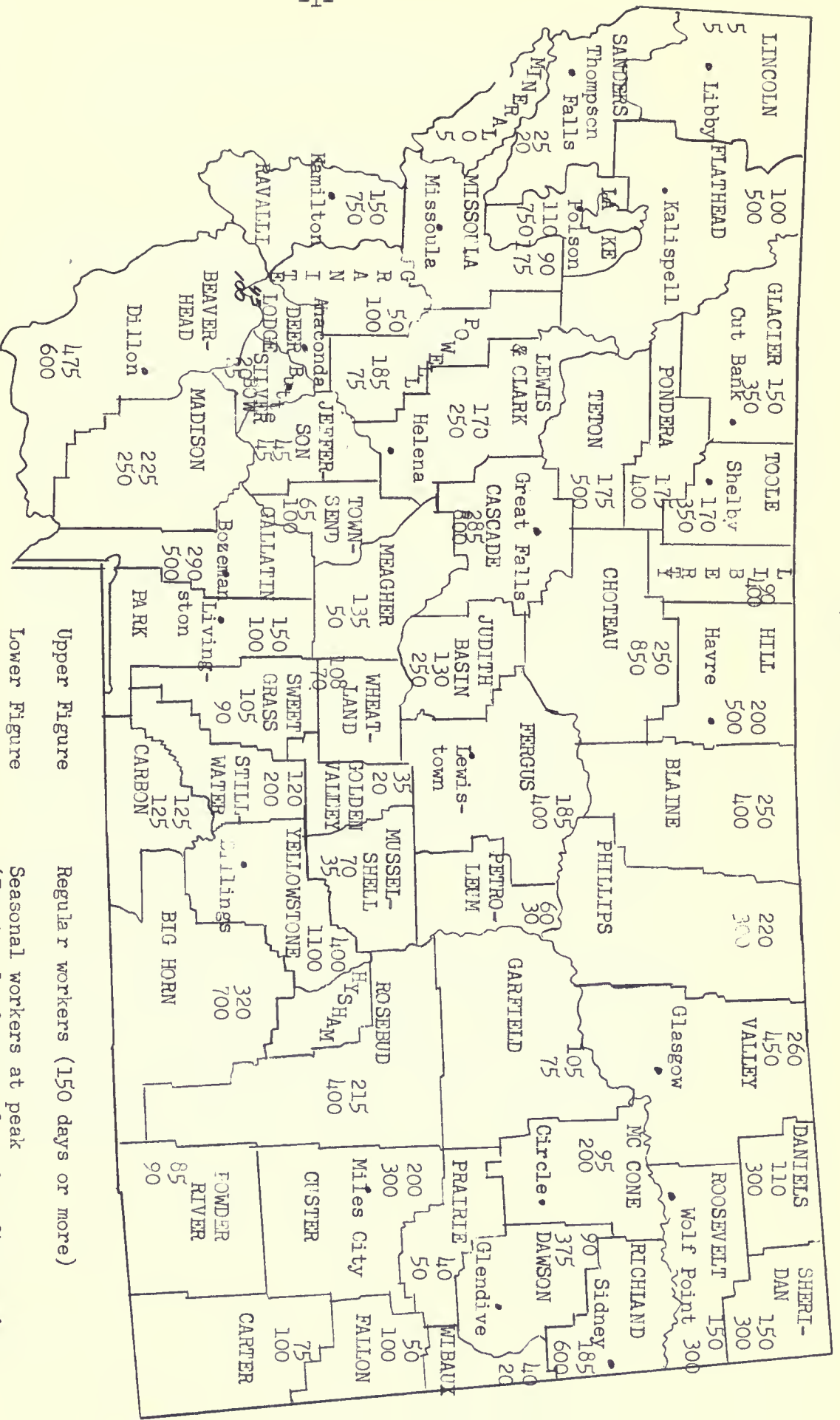
Cover Picture by Bill Browning, Montana Chamber of Commerce

Foreword

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MONTANA



Upper Figure
Lower Figure

Regular workers (150 days or more)

Seasonal workers at peak
(The total of seasonal worker figures does not approximate the number of individuals employed since the peaks in various areas range from the 3rd week in June to the 3rd week in September.)



ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD PROCESSING REPORT

ES---225

1957
Montana

PART I. STATE SUMMARY

Administrative Organization

Plans for the operation of the farm program for the year 1957 were projected upon development and refinement of evaluation of existing programs. Planned accomplishments were based upon past experience, individual farm employer information, and expected conditions. There were no changes in the organization of the farm program, however, steps were taken to improve the establishing and maintenance of information and tighten up management at the local office level.

The farm program in Montana is organized with a Chief of Farm Placement and secretary functioning as part of the Employment Service Directors staff and with designated representatives in each of the local offices. In the larger offices the local office farm placement representative serves as a functional supervisor for the farm placement program and in smaller offices the manager is usually designated as farm placement representative. This permits the farm placement program to be completely integrated with other local office programs so that when local office areas have considerable agricultural activity additional personnel can work back and forth between agriculture and other programs. Some local offices, in fact, are practically agricultural offices during certain parts of the season but do maintain a complete employment service program at all times.

To assure maintenance of better quality farm labor information, revisions were made in the system of maintaining individual farm placement records. To tighten up control of farm placement activities emphasis was shifted from crop timing to activity timing patterns. This approach was used in as many activities as cut across several different crops and the basic problem is in securing labor to perform the activity regardless of what crops the activity is performed in.



Meetings

Prior to the opening of the farm season, three meetings of local office farm placement personnel and managers of larger offices were held at different points. Two of these, in each western and eastern part of the state, were concerned with planning for all types of farm operations. The third was concerned with operation of the annual worker plan and with Mexican National contract labor. State office personnel attended the National Farm Placement Conference and conferred with members of the State Farm Labor Advisory Council. Meetings involving state office personnel and local office personnel were held with contracting-processors of the sugar beet industry and with the Indian Service Headquarters and tribal officers. Local office personnel met with local credit production associations; Agriculture Conservation and Stabilization Committees, Local Farm Bureaus, Farm Unions, and Grange Organizations. Operational arrangements for recruitment of domestic workers for sugar processors, which have been in effect between the Montana agency and Colorado for several years, were extended as was a special recruiting agreement with the New Mexico agency for Latin-American and Indian workers for the sheep industry,

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The last half of calendar year 1956 was one of extremely short rain fall over much of the state. While drought conditions did not greatly affect crop activities in 1956, the livestock industry was hard hit due to depletion of sub-soil moisture and near exhaustion of range grasses. This caused over selling of cattle in the last quarter of 1956 and the trend continued into the first quarter of 1957. Reduced carry-over of cattle reduced the labor requirements in the livestock industry until the upswing, caused as seasonal employment in calving, lambing, and shearing begin in April. By this time, heavy snows had begun to replenish the sub-soil moisture and the prospect for improved range conditions were so obvious by the end of April and early May that ranchers began to re-stock. The re-stocking did not go as rapidly as it would have if adequate numbers of good stockers had been available. A good calf crop helped.

The winter soil moisture coupled with weather conditions had permitted early soil preparation and got the small grain crops off to a good start. Increased winter wheat seeding in the fall of 1956 cut down the amount of spring soil preparation. 44% of all wheat was fall seeded. Labor shortages began to be felt in the middle part of April, due primarily to the fact that states to the east and south, which are on the normal migratory route of workers who follow this activity, had late spring storms which discouraged worker movement. The labor shortage was relieved through the publication of information in supply states informing workers that while intervening areas were still delayed, states further west were engaged in cultivation. Some areas in the state, however, had slight shortages continuing throughout the small grain season mainly because they were off the principal traveled routes. Most small grain areas thereafter had adequate supplies of labor for all the soil preparation and cultivation activities until harvest time.

The small grains harvest was adequately manned as far as workers were concerned but extreme difficulty was caused in obtaining a sufficient number of custom combines and crews to take care of a crop which was both early and heavy. Less than one-third of the out-of-state custom combines which operated in Montana in the 1956 season were used in 1957. Again, crop conditions in the normal migratory route were responsible, with delays in states to the South holding up movement of machines until after the peak of the Montana crop had been taken care of. To relieve the shortage of custom combines, local offices undertook an extensive recruiting campaign to induce Montana farmers, to make their men and machines available to other farm operators on either a hire or work exchange basis. More than double the number of intrastate machines were hired in 1957 than were used in 1956. No record was kept on work exchange. These efforts would not have been sufficient to complete the grain harvest in the time in which it was done except for practically ideal weather conditions. Warm dry winds about the 20th of July ripened grain evenly so no spot cutting was necessary. There were practically no interruptions due to rain and night temperatures over the dew point which prevailed for nearly three weeks permitted much longer cutting per day than would normally be expected.

SUGAR BEETS

A 6,000 acre increase in beet allotments brought the acreage to 57,210. There was no difficulty in processors securing contract commitments for the total. Cool weather after planting delayed germination although plantings were completed at about the usual time in most areas. There was, as usual, no local labor available for the thinning. Increased plantings required increased demand out-of-state labor for thinning and hoeing. Harvest was accomplished 100% by machines. Heavy snow in September delayed machine harvest in the western part of the state but ground remained unfrozen so that harvest could continue despite delay and heavy going.

Cherries: The cherry production in both the Bitterroot and Flathead Valleys bounced back from the disastrous 1956 season with a harvest well over the average of the past ten years. Fears that the bad previous season would have continuing discouraging effect upon the workers who include this section in regular work pattern were unfounded and before the crop came on local offices were assured of an adequate inflow of pickers and had no difficulty in taking care of packing sheds and cannery from local sources. The other fruits in the Bitterroot were harvested with local labor supplemented by workers brought in for sugar beet thinning and hoeing between activity phases.

Other crops: There were increased plantings of corn, dry beans, and harvestings of alfalfa seed, crested wheatgrass seed, sweet clover seed and hay. Reduced crops were flax, potatoes, dry peas, red clover seed and mustard. These are for the most part supplemental crops and, as with the shifts of emphasis between cereal grains, do not affect the total demand to a great extent. The exception is the potato crop for which the labor demand fluctuates more in with harvest conditions than with the usual small acreage rise and decline. The smaller 1957 potato acreage used more labor due to the same influences that stretched out the sugar beet harvest.

COMPARISON OF PRODUCTION, PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1956 & 1957

-9-

Acreage (thousands)					Production (thousands of units)		
Crop	Planted		Harvested		Unit	1956	1957
	1956	1957	1956	1957			
Corn	180	187	171	183	Bu	2,992	3,843
All Wheat	5,757	4,341	4,780	4,235	Bu	86,983	83,815
Other Grain	1,604	2,276	1,254	2,015	Bu	36,895	55,317
Flaxseed	90	74	75	55	Bu	450	275
Potatoes	9.2	8.5	8.8	8.3	Cwt	1,320	1,245
Dry Beans	12	15	12	15	Cwt	198	240
Dry Peas	6	4	5	4	Cwt	62	46
Sugar Beets	52.4	58.2	51.1	57.3	Tons	756	894
Alfalfa Seed			59	71.0	Lbs.	5,310	7,455
Mustard	52.0	46	49.7	41.0	Lbs.	37,130	17,632
Wheatgrass			5.5	18.0	Lbs.	220	1,350
Hay (all types)			2,219	2,326	Tons	2,691	2,992
Apples					Bu	40	110
Cherries					Tons	200	2,380

Estimated total crop value (preliminary) \$26,963,300

RECRUITMENT AND LABOR SUPPLY

As previously reported, early season shortages, following exhaustion of local sources, were relieved when the workers who migrate on an east to west pattern began to arrive as a result of dissemination of need information through the mid-west. Delays in the beginning of other types of seasonal work in some local office areas also aided in relieving shortage. An increase in the sugar beet acreage caused increased demand for "stoop" labor. Recruitment in the southwest areas of supply did not result in filling demand and use of Mexican Nationals was necessary. Domestic workers under the Annual Workers Plan were available for thinning and hoeing period and departed for other states near the beginning of grain harvest and at the peak of haying. The full complement of such workers needed for thinning is not always busy at hoeing and the excess, whose further commitments permitted, worked at the hay harvest, green pea harvest, and at other tasks where mechanical skills are not needed.

Grain, which normally ripens on a south to north pattern over a thirty to thirty-five day spread, ripened simultaneously in practically every area except the high slopes just east of the Continental Divide. Local offices, while running into some temporary shortages were able to keep up with the demand for harvest skills but were pinched for custom machines. Through field contacts, newspaper publicity, and radio local farm operators were urged to make themselves available for custom work. The response was good, but most such operators preferred to remain in their immediate localities until their own harvesting was complete. Others finished, moved considerable distances. There was also considerable exchange of use of machines which, coupled with an almost perfect season, weather wise, resulted in the peak of the grain harvest having been passed before regular custom movement out of the south.

2,948 Mexican Nationals were contracted for Montana growers. This was an increase over the preceeding year of 468. The number representing just about the number of workers necessary to handle the additional sugar beet acreage. Certification was delayed as long as possible to explore all possible domestic sources, the first contracting

date being May 15. The bulk of these workers were re--contracted or returned to the reception center by the middle of July.

Arrangements were completed with contracting processors to have their field men inspect housing with review by agency personnel. Since field representatives contact every grower before and during the season, it was possible to have a 100% inspection of housing. Deviations from standards were pointed out and followed up by both company and agency personnel. Actually, this joint effort was more effective than the same action by either prime contractor or the state agency since the dual viewpoint of protection of the worker and protection of the employers contract privilege could be presented.

Only one complaint of National Workers was brought to the state agency's attention. This involved wage settlement - not rate - and the agency recommended finding in favor of the employer whose payment on an hourly or piece basis which-ever was the greater, actually somewhat exceeded the the straight piecework basis.

One wage survey was conducted in each of four crop-wage areas. Sugar beet hoeing and thinning are the only foreign labor using activities and rates of payment for all workers are set by hearing. Wage surveys are not of as great value in making wage information available as they are in determining that the fixed rate is being complied with.

No special community programs for recruitment were necessary. For the most part, the type of worker necessary for grain and livestock ranching is either seeking work in the community or not available so that it is necessary to go outside to recruit. It is true that in an agricultural state many workers in other fields have farm skills and and experience which can be utilized if he is not employed at his regular non-agricultural work. No local office, no agricultural organization, and practically no individual farmer is interested in recruiting such workers from non-agricultural to agricultural occupations, particularly since the demand is principally for short term work. Farm jobs which demand little or no experience or skill or for which a brief instructional period will suffice are a

minority. These include some berry picking, plant sorting and packaging, potato harvest and other activities which use minor percentage of total workers.

There is a trend which indicates that labor supply problems will increase in the near future. Montana agriculture depends upon out of state sources for up to 70% of the workers needed in the seasonal activities. Good working conditions and higher wages than paid in most adjoining states has been a prime factor in attracting the workers necessary with wage rates being the prime attraction. The past year has seen this wage differential shortened so that some workers who move out of the upper midwest find it as advantageous to stop for work at intervening points. While a somewhat lower rate may be offered, it is compensated for by a reduced cost of travel from home base.

Increased mechanization is a labor saving device in that physical labor is reduced. Manpower demands, however, are not reduced at anywhere near the same rate, although there may be fewer workers performing any one task at any one time. The overall effect is to shorten the time necessary to perform any operation which shortens the tenure of the worker hired for the operation. To remain fairly steadily employed throughout a season the worker must work on more jobs for more employers. The skills involved in mechanized farming and the amount of responsibility requires high type individuals who are adaptable to other fields of work. It has been observed that many workers, becoming discouraged at the high turnover in jobs, are leaving farm employment for other work -- even seasonal employment which promises longer tenure.

Labor shortages have been discussed with the exception of the problems encountered in two areas - Lewistown and Bozeman. The Lewistown area is primarily a dry farming grain and livestock area located in the geographical center of the state. Local worker supply is extremely limited, to the East, South, and West are areas of not too great demand for seasonal workers so that migratory movements flow around and to the North is an area of great demand which drains.

EMPLOYMENT BY WORKER SOURCE, DELINEATED REPORTER AREAS

SEASONAL WORKERS

Area 9-27.01 (Ravalli, Missoula, Lake, Flathead, Powell, Lewis & Clark, Pondera, Teton, Cascade, and Broadwater Counties)

Period	DOMESTIC		FOREIGN	
	Total	Local*	Non-Local	
April 15	850	400	450	0
30	1705	450	1255	0
May 15	1850	450	1400	0
31	2525	650	1695	180
June 15	2820	795	1800	225
30	2725	795	1708	222
July 15	2450	950	1500	0
31	3175	1200	1975	0
Aug. 15	3285	1050	2235	0
31	2475	900	1575	0
Sept. 15	1300	500	800	0
30	1500	600	900	0
Oct. 15	825	300	525	0
31	425	250	125	0

Area 9-27.02 (Stillwater, Carbon, Yellowstone, Big Horn, Treasure, Rosebud, and Custer Counties)

Apr. 15	870	200	670	0
30	1040	240	800	0
May 15	1540	260	1280	
31	2909	375	1710	824
June 15	3993	475	1700	1818
30	3920	440	1674	1848
July 15	3135	400	1648	1087
31	2320	500	1820	0
Aug. 15	3020	650	2370	0
31	3250	500	1750	0
Sept. 15	1425	400	1025	0
30	1225	400	825	0
Oct. 15	450	200	250	0

EMPLOYMENT BY WORKER SOURCE, DELINEATED REPORTER AREAS

SEASONAL WORKERS

Area 9-27.03 (Richland, Dawson, Prairie Counties)				
		DOMESTIC	FOREIGN	
Period	Total	Local*	Non-Local	
Apr. 15	660	250	410	0
30	830	285	445	0
May 15	850	250	600	0
31	1200	250	950	0
June 15	2385	350	1450	585
30	2380	350	1400	630
July 15	1050	350	570	130
31	1025	350	675	0
Aug. 15	1250	400	850	0
31	750	250	500	0
Sept. 15	600	200	400	0
30	375	150	225	0

Area 9-27.04 (Hill, Blaine, Phillips, and Valley Counties)				
Apr. 15	870	400	470	0
30	1540	700	840	0
May 15	1580	650	930	0
31	1525	650	875	0
June 15	1845	550	975	320
30	1825	550	955	320
July 15	1490	540	950	0
31	1800	575	1225	0
Aug. 15	1950	550	1400	0
31	1300	500	800	0
Sept. 15	950	400	550	0
30	475	200	275	0

All estimates are for the last working day proceeding 15th or last day of month.

*Local. The definition of local worker is "workers who reside within normal daily commuting distance of their work". Commuting farm workers are uncommon in Montana, 95% of all workers residing for duration of employment on the employing farm unit either boarded, self-boarded with board allowance, or self-boarded without allowance. Included as local workers are those who are employed up to 25 miles from point claimed as residence. This figure then includes workers who move into an area, in advance of any operation, and remain long enough to have to establish a local place of residence even on a strictly temporary basis. This is necessary, since a substantial number of workers claim no legal residence dividing the year between three or four areas, south in winter, north in summer, across state lines, or moving between widely separated areas within the state at various seasons, and not definitely identifiable as an intra-state or interstate migrant.

Table 1. Selected data on farm placement operations in 1957

Item	Number
Section A. Day-Haul Activities	
1. Operated by State agency:	
a. Day-haul points.....	4
b. Towns with day-haul points.....	4
c. Sum of workers transported on average day in each town.....	39
c. Sum of workers transported on peak day in each town.....	55
2. Day-haul points established by State agency.....	0
Section B. Services to school-age youth	
3. Towns in which separate school-age youth programs are operated....	0
4. Day-haul points operated separately for school-age youth.....	0
a. Sum of school-age youth workers transported on peak day in each town.....	0
5. Day-haul points established by State agency for school-age youth.	0
6. Supervised camps operated for school-age farm workers.....	0
a. Placements in camps.....	0
7. Placements of school-age youth in supervised live-in farm homes..	0
Section C. Services to other special groups	
8. Services rendered to Indians by local offices or itinerant points on reservations:	
a. Placements.....	677
b. Applicant holding acceptances.....	48
9. Other placements of reservation Indians.....	2146
10. Puerto Ricans brought into State under work contract.....	0
Section D. Special services to employers	
11. Employer receiving combine services:	
a. From out of area.....	375
b. From out of state.....	160
12. Employers receiving cotton-harvesting-machine services:	
a. From out of area.....	0
b. From out of state.....	0
13. Food processing employers receiving placement services.....	8
Section E. Other special services	
14. Local offices which held farm clinics.....	0
15. Days on which farm clinics were held.....	0
16. Issues of farm labor bulletins published.....	42
a. Copies distributed.....	16842
17. State agency's work guides distributed:	
a. Within reporting State.....	0
b. To other States.....	0
18. Local offices participating in formal community service program..	0
19. Volunteer farm placement representatives.....	159

Towns	Number of day-haul points		Number of workers transported		
	Total	School-age youth	Average day	Peak day	
I	II	III	IV	V	VI
1. Bozeman, Montana	4	0	14	19	0
2. Belgrade, Montana			12	12	0
3. Manhattan, Montana			16	11	0
4. Gallatin Gateway, Montana			7	13	0

Table 4. Agricultural migrant activities in 1957

Section A. Migrant Contacts			Section B. Individuals represented		
TYPE	By reporting State	With reporting State's residents	AGE and SEX	in sec. A, col. II	in sec. A, col. III
I	II	III	I	II	III
1. Total.....	173	3	2. Total.....	2405	35
a. Crew leaders.	69	0	a. male 16 & over	950	14
b. Family heads.	104	3	b. female 16 & over	685	11
c. Other.....	0	0	c. Under 16....	774	10
Section C. Housing Required			Section D. Services rendered		
Type		Number	Type		Number
I.		II	I.		II
3. Families.....		334	6. Total.....		39
4. Unattached males.....		473	a. Scheduled by ES.....		25
5. Unattached females.....		261	b. Information only....		13
			c. Requests for action		1
Section E. Summary of migratory movement by State					
Home State		Last State in		Next state in	
State	Workers	State	Workers	State	Workers
I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Total.....	*1660	Total.....	1660	Total...	1660
Texas	1631	Washington	6	Colorado	249
Arizona	4	Oregon	90	Oregon	112
Montana	25	Texas	1535	Michigan	106
		Arizona	4	Wisconsin	820
		Montana	25	Indiana	8
				Arizona	4
				Idaho	8
				Minnesota	20
				Texas	- 333

* This figure does not include any individual under 16 years of age. Montana law relating to employment would permit employment of 14 and 15 year olds in farm work during customary vacation periods in the school district in which located. The thinning period begins just prior to vacation period. There is no available data to determine how many under-16-year olds may have entered employment at end of school term.

Above does not include 294 workers positively recruited in Arizona.

Montana Farm Labor Bulletin

FARM PLACEMENT DIVISION MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Sam W. Mitchell Building — Helena, Montana

Phone Hickory 2-3260 — Ext. 633



Number 27

October 2, 1957

This bulletin is for information only, and does not list actual job orders. Refer only on actual order after contacting order-holding office. Information given to applicants should be with the understanding that changes in the labor situation may have occurred since publication.

TIES: SEEDING, APPLE, POTATO, AND SUGAR BEET HARVESTING, CORN CUTTING, AND GENERAL RANCH WORK ARE MAIN ACTIVITIES.

gs: Sugar beet harvest is just getting underway and grain and bean harvest, haying cutting and chopping, also summer fallowing are the main activities. Anticipated two labor demands are as follows: 40 table pickers (the number of table pickers needed is controlled mainly by the weather.) The condition of the ground at the present time is quite ideal for a minimum of table pickers needed. 36 tractor operators, 30 trucks and 6 hay hands. At present, our labor needs and labor supply is balanced. Weather is an ideal for all agricultural activities.

n: Activities include potato harvest and general farm and ranch work. Haying and fall g activity still in progress. No large demand for potato pickers is anticipated. Short general farm hands for seasonal work. Duration of jobs are two days to two months. \$6.00 to \$7.00 per day of \$125 to \$150 per month with B & R. Warm, fair weather sed activities.

Potato harvest is main activity with labor surplus here to meet all demands. Weather is warm and clear. Surplus of three experienced ranch hands and three ranch couples, all children.

: Weather has been hot and dry. Major agricultural activities are hay, grain, and harvest, building fence, irrigating and plowing. Labor supply is balanced.

Falls: Fall seeding, plowing, general repair, major activity. Weather warm and clear, for all field operations. Continuing heavy demand for experienced wheel and crawler tractors, for jobs varying from 1 week to 6 weeks duration. Wages \$8 to \$10 per day B & R. Farm workers supply short.

on: Current crop activities are harvesting sugar beets, picking potatoes and picking . There is a shortage of fifty (50) harvesthands, potato 3-19.20, wages .07 and .075 shel. General farm wages are \$1.00 per hour, potato buckers are paid \$1.25 per hours. r has been extremely hot and dry.

: Activities the past week have been potato harvest and start of the beet harvest. are adequate crews of potato pickers. Use of power equipment demands little extra help. r has been favorable and potato harvest is expected to be completed by week end. No ge of labor at this time. No surplus for recruitment in other areas.

Montana State Employment Service



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Montana Farm Labor Bulletin



FARM PLACEMENT DIVISION MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Sam W. Mitchell Building — Helena, Montana

Phone Hickory 2-3260 — Ext. 633



Number 28

October 9, 1957

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ACTIVITIES: SUGAR BEET AND POTATO HARVEST, LIVESTOCK MOVEMENT TO WINTER RANGES, ROCK PICKING, HAY HAULING, AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE. LABOR SUPPLY TIGHT WITH SOME SURPLUSES OF LOCAL LABOR UNWILLING TO MOVE TO DEMAND AREAS.
BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER 16 WILL BE LAST FOR SEASON.

an: Potato harvest, general farm and ranch work--major agricultural activities. End fall plowing activity, potato harvest approximately 50% completed. Extreme shortage of potato pickers. Wages 7¢ a bushel. Above average yield. Short one man and woman couple for two months job. Showers of snow and rain has retarded all agricultural activities.

Potato harvest is approximately 90% completed, with sufficient labor. Weather has been cold with heavy frosts and snow. Surplus of two married ranch hands with children and three single ranch hands.

ank: Main activity at this time is livestock shipping and some feeding. Snow has retarded all field work and rock picking.

ow: Livestock movement is the major ag activity. Cold weather and snow flurries have interrupted all other ag activities.

ve: General farm work stopped due to snow and rain. Sugar beet and potato harvest 25% complete. No shortage or surplus of farm workers today.

on: Crop activities are harvesting sugar beets and picking potatoes. The supply of labor is now adequate. Rain and snow showers have persisted since last Thursday and other activities have slowed.

all: Potato harvest and sugar beet harvest has been the main farm activities the past week. Intermittent rain and wet snow has curtailed harvest in some areas. Potato harvest in Helena Valley approximately 90% completed, and about 60% completed in Townsend area. Sugar beet harvest 30% completed. Adequate help in the area to complete the harvest. No need for plus of farm help for recruitment elsewhere.

ell: Potato harvest is the main activity. Christmas tree harvest to commence in a week. Sufficient supply of labor on hand to meet demands. Wages \$1 an hour for field work. Weather has been cool with some rain and snow.

Montana Farm Labor Bulletin

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR LABOR RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

Montana Farm Labor Bulletin

Volume 1, Number 1, January 1961



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

HELENA, MONTANA

P. O. BOX 1728

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Montana Farm Labor Bulletin

FARM PLACEMENT DIVISION MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Sam W. Mitchell Building — Helena, Montana

Phone HICKORY 2-3260 — Ext. 633



Number 29

October 16, 1957

This bulletin is for information only, and does not list actual job orders. Refer only on actual order after contacting order-holding office. Information given to applicants should be with the understanding that changes in the labor situation may have occurred since publication.

WIDE ACTIVITIES: SUGAR BEET HARVESTING, SUMMER FALLOWING, POTATOE HARVESTING, ROCK PICKING AND GENERAL RANCH WORK ARE THE MAIN ACTIVITIES.
NOTE: THIS WILL BE THE LAST BULLETIN OF THE SEASON.

anda: This weeks activity involved "clean up" on the potatoe work that was curtailed se of bad weather. This weeks weather was cool and cloudy and didn't hinder any operations. have available one farm couple and one good single farm foreman. Has his own equipment uld sell if job didn't require.

ngs: Sugar beet harvest and summer fallowing are the main activities. Sugar beet harvest % completed in the Billings area. Anticipated two week labor demands are as follows: 30 or operators, 22 truck drivers, 14 table pickers, 30 farm hand generals. At present our needs and labor supply is balanced. Weather the past week has been ideal for all ultural activities.

: Potatoe harvest completed and all other agricultural activity negligible right at this Weather the past week has been mild with sunny days and mildly cool nights. Transient has diminished, and the active file contains only a few single ranch hands awaiting the of winter activities.

ank: Main activity at this time is rock picking, summer fallowing and some winter wheat ng. Wages for rock picking \$1.50 hour, B & R and for farm hands and tractor men \$8.00 ay ar \$200 per month, B & R. Weather the past few days has been dry and very windy.

g: Weather has been cloudy, cool and dry the past week. Major agricultural activities at resent are, haying, grain and potatoe harvest, fencing, irrigating and plowing. The labor y is adequate.

ow: Ag activities are at a standstill. Some livestock movement. Two transient workers able for other areas if the jobs are for the winter.

ive: Potato and sugar beet harvest and summer fallowing are the main activities. Short 15 o pickers, wages \$.12 to .15 per bushel and 4 potato loaders at 4¢ per sack. Root crop st 50% completed. Short two experienced farm hands, wages, \$125-175 per month, D.O.E.

Montana State Employment Service



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

HELENA, MONTANA

P. O. BOX 1728

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

MONTANA STATE

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
ACCOUNTED FOR UNDER
ACT OF CONGRESS

CHARACTERISTICS OF MONTANA AGRICULTURE

The agricultural dollar in Montana is divided about 58 to 42, crops sales to livestock and animal products. In general, livestock production is the dominant factor in agricultural income in counties in the mountainous regions in the detached mountain groups rising in plains areas, and in breakland in the prairie areas, which is too rough or which has soil not suitable for cropping.

Those county areas in which crop production is the predominant income source are basically producers of wheat and other cereal grains. Such grains are grown on carefully cultivated soils which developed under grass cover and which are almost entirely dependent upon rainfall for moisture. (Rainfall farming is a euphemism rarely used by the Montana farmer - he refers to it as dry or dry-land farming.) Every county in the state has some irrigation but in many of the crop counties the amount is insignificant.

Crops such as peas, beans, sugar beets, orchard fruits, potatoes, and a considerable amount of hay are grown on irrigated land, while the bulk of seed crops, clover, alfalfa, etc. are grown without irrigation to produce seed of greater hardiness.

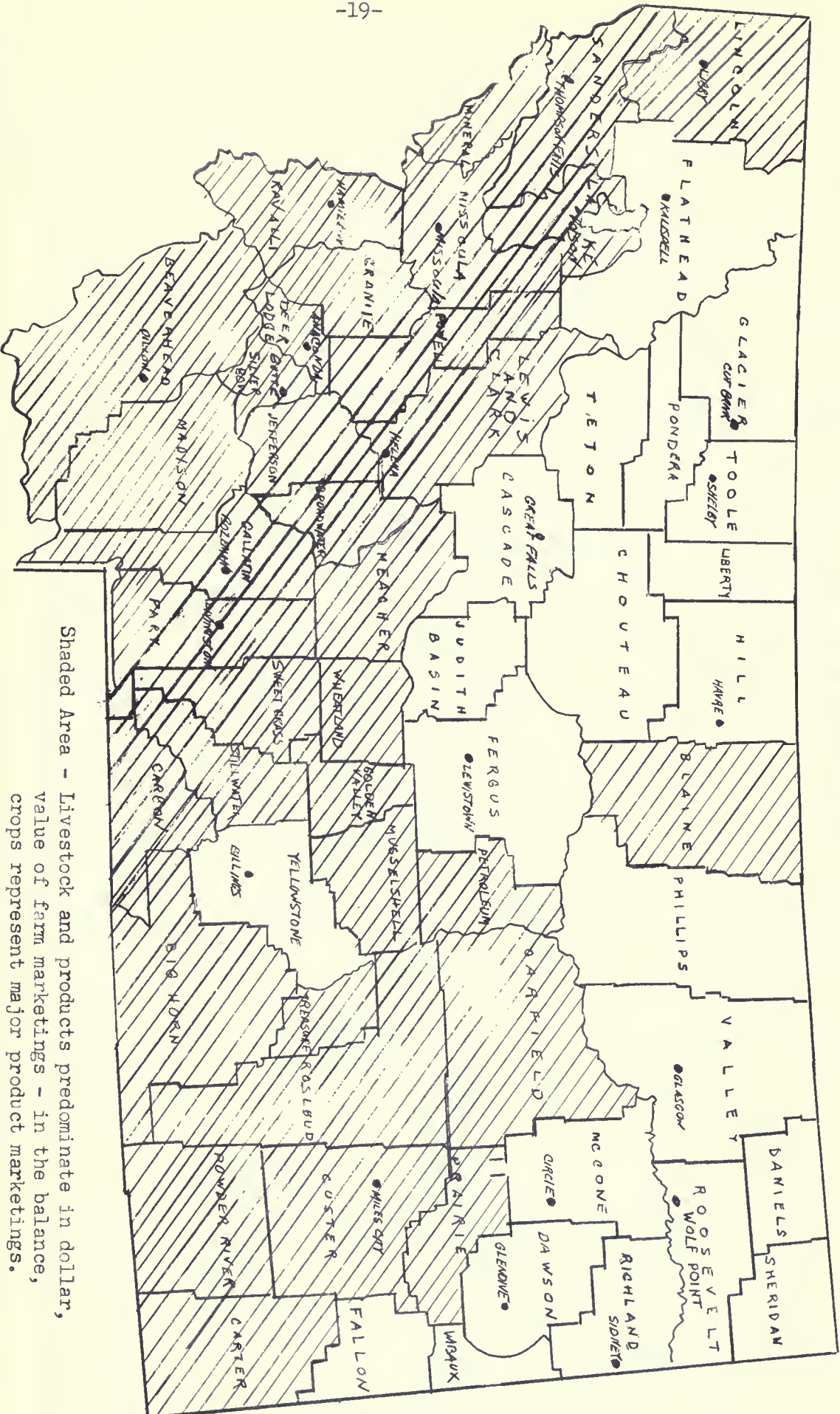
Paradoxically those counties with the greatest amount of irrigation development are livestock producing areas. This is because the cost of development and the increased land value makes it more profitable to "walk" the production off the farm. Irrigated units, both crop and livestock fall far below the 1500 acre average size of unit found in the dry land areas, since the investment in land and buildings required is so much higher.



Characteristic of Montana Agriculture-1

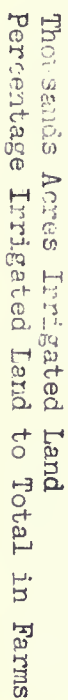
CROP and LIVESTOCK MARKETINGS

MONTANA



Shaded Area - Livestock and products predominate in dollar, value of farm marketings - in the balance, crops represent major product marketings.

Irrigation by Acreage and Percentage of total land in farms



State total	61,469,000 A
Land in Farms	1,891,000 A
Irrigated Land	8,420,000 A
Land in Crops	

FORECAST

Small grains plantings will be at about the same level as 1957. To date, fall seeded grains are showing very good survival and barring unforeseen complications there will be little reseeding to spring grains. Winter wheat seeding is the highest on record and up 24% over the previous year. Barring any radical change in allotments or weather conditions which will require considerable reseeding, winter wheat will represent about 60% of all wheat. Labor requirements in grain farming will be substantially the same as last year except that demand for workers will develop more slowly with reduced need for soil preparation and seeding. Again weather could be a factor which would make earlier fallowing necessary and sharpen the up curve of seasonal need.

There may be increased demand in the livestock industry in February and March, normal tagging time, as more growers try early shearing of sheep. This would be compensated for by a drop in May and June if it does develop. A considerable number of sheep raisers have shifted to early shearing on the theory that the steady cold which can be anticipated in February and March is no more dangerous than the wide temperature fluctuations and cold rains encountered in the later shearing period.

A calf crop at least equal to last years can be anticipated and probably better since range conditions and a plentifulness of feed should bring a larger number of cows and heifers to calving time in better condition.

Sugar beet allotment will be lower by a little over 1500 acres. This will reduce demand by 150 workers. Over past seasons the Annual Workers Plan and other sources have not provided sufficient workers for the thinning and hoeing operations and it has been necessary to import Mexican Nationals. There is no valid information available at present on supply of this type of labor, but examination of records shows a total of 1200 workers who have repeated two years on a Montana/Wisconsin-Michigan-other midwest state or Montana/Colorado/Southwest state pattern. This core of repeaters leads us to currently estimate 2000 to 2500 domestic workers can be recruited for the activity.

Other crop demands should remain on the same level as 1957.

Shortages can be anticipated in supply of sheepherders for mountain herding. Agreement with New Mexico for recruitment of herders will take care of demand. Irrigators will be difficult to secure in the western half of the state, and wage rates will not be attractive enough to interest skilled hands from out-of-area. This must be met by furnishing farm operators with less than fully qualified hands for training.

VOLUNTEER FARM PLACEMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. R. L. Kimmons, Manager
Great Western Sugar Co.
Billings, Montana

Mr. L. R. Cool
Holly Sugar Corp.
Hardin, Montana

Mr. Rosenow
Holly Sugar Corp.
Hardin, Montana

Mr. Swift, Manager
American Crystal Sugar Co.
Missoula, Montana

Mr. Dexter W. Lillie
Holly Sugar Corp.
Sidney, Montana

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Deer Lodge Creamery
Deer Lodge, Montana

Mr. Charles Popich
Turf Bar
Drummond, Montana

Mr. C. R. Metcalf
Club Bar
Phillipsburg, Montana

Mr. Joe Arthun
Stockman's Feed & Supply
Absarokee, Montana

Steve Morin
Log Cabin Bar
Arlee, Montana

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General Store & Post Office
Acton, Montana

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Ballantine Mercantile
Ballantine, Montana

J. F. Reynolds
Big Horn Mercantile
Big Horn, Montana

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Farmers Union Oil Co.
Broadview, Montana

Mr. Tom Mulvihill
New Atlas Bar
Columbus, Montana

Mr. Kenneth Perrin
Perrin Motors
Custer, Montana

Mr. Joe Malek
Edgar Bar
Edgar, Montana

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Hogan & Baumann
Joliet, Montana

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Garryowen Mercantile Co.
Garryowen, Montana

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Mission Bar
Hardin, Montana

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Althoff Mercantile Co.
Huntly, Montana

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General Merchandise Store
Lodge Grass, Montana

Mr. O. P. Balgard
Slayton Mercantile Co.
Lavina, Montana

Mr. E. T. Bildong
Slayton Mercantile Co.
Lavina, Montana

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Melstone, Montana

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Slavin Lumber Co.
Molt, Montana

Mr. Floyd R. Eastlick
Trail Garage
Park City, Montana

Mr. Don Bollinger
Bollinger & Sons
Pompeys Pillar, Montana

Mr. Charles Cook
General Store
Rapelje, Montana

Mr. W. A. Baker
General Store
Reed Point, Montana

Mr. Frank Cyr
Manager, Huson Mercantile
Huson, Montana

Mr. Max Hughes
Hughes Mercantile Co.
Lolo, Montana

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General Store
Perma, Montana

Mr. Carl H. Dahl
Plains, Montana

Mr. William Evans
Co-op Station
Charlo, Montana

Mr. Herbert Beckers
Soil Conserv. Service
Hot Springs, Montana

Mr. Frank Herzig
General Store
Lonepine, Montana

Mr. E. J. Wamsley
Wamsley's Store
Moiese, Montana

Mr. Ivan Remmen
Dusty's Bar
Brady, Montana

Mr. Dodds Keith, Sheriff
Liberty County
Chester, Montana

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Joplin Mercantile
Joplin, Montana

Paul E. Nason
Farmers Co-op Oil Co.
Sunburst, Montana

Mr. Homer Faulkner
Gamble Store
Sunburst, Montana

Mrs. Charles Donovan
Valier Hotel
Valier, Montana

Mr. Albert Watterson
City Clerk
Fairview, Montana

Mr. Milo Jensen
Ronan, Montana

Mr. Oscar G. Petrick
Petrick Implement
Lambert, Montana

Mr. Emil Nitschke
Tavern Keeper
Savage, Montana

VOLUNTEER FARM PLACEMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. James Wangerin
Wangerin Grocery
Outlook, Montana

Claire Johnson
Johnson's Hardware
Raymond, Montana

Mr. Al Doucette
Red's Bar
Redstone, Montana

Mr. K. Courtnage
Moore, Montana

Dewey Myers
Office Bar
Moore, Montana

George Wamsley
Court House Service Station
Standford, Montana

Mr. Mike Machler
Roy Bar
Roy, Montana

Mr. John Mayberry
Roy Bar
Roy, Montana

William McQuirk
Two Dot Bar
Tow Dot, Montana

Janice & Wayne Kelly
J & W Grocer
Utica, Montana

Mr. Duncan Gilespe
Gilespe Drug Store
Windham, Montana

Mr. Burt Fuller
Winifred Tavern
Winifred, Montana

Floyd H. Burkdall
Smitty's Bar
Winnett, Montana

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County Agent
Big Timber, Montana

Mr. Glen Jones
Clyde Park Gr66.
Clyde Park, Montana

Mr. Walter Hamel
St. Ignatius, Montana

Mrs. Jeanette Soiland
Grocery Store
Springdale, Montana

Mr. John Johnson
Alzada Bar
Alzada, Montana

Mr. Clarence Heiser
Heiser's Bar
Baker, Montana

Mr. Vern Isaac
Bear Inn Bar & Cafe
Jordan, Montana

Mr. Louie Neidge
Longhorn Bar
Rosebud, Montana

Mr. Harry Brost
Brost Clothing Store
Terry, Montana

Mr. Glenn Blakesley
Blakesley's Bar
Forsyth, Montana

Mr. Joseph Grenier
Dixon Cafe
Dixon, Montana

VOLUNTEER FARM PLACEMENT REPRESENTATIVES

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Box 488
Superior, Montana

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Coughlin's I.G.A. Store
Helmville, Montana

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Siebert's Service Station
Frenchtown, Montana

Mr. Donald Wilden
Lincoln Service Station
Lincoln, Montana

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Melody Lane Bar & Lunch
White Sulphur Springs, Mont.

Mr. T. E. Weggeland
Service Garahe
Wolf Creek, Montana

Mr. Fed O. Lehman
Boisvert's Camp
Marion, Montana

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Hardware & Mercantile
Buffalo, Montana

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Christina Store
Christina, Montana

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Russell's Bar
Coffee Creek, Montana

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Danver's Bar
Danver, Montana

Mr. Earl Spurgeion
M & N Implement Co.
Denton, Montana

Ed Fenner
Farmer's Bar
Denton, Montana

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Garage
Rudyard, Montana

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Red & White Store
Avon, Montana

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Boulder, Montana

Mr. Gordon Williams
Lincoln Service Station
Lincoln, Montana

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Fergus Merc.Co
Fergus, Montana

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Cec's Bar
Grass Range, Montana

J. H. Kirke
Kirke's Bar
Harlowton, Montana

Mr. E. C. Lewis
Pioneer Bar
Hilger, Montana

Mr. Newt Johnson
Hobson Bar
Hobson, Montana

H. C. Wilhelms
Judith Gap Cavern
Judith Gap, Montana

Mr. H. A. Ashcraft
Mocassin Bar
Mocassin, Montana

Mr. Ralph A. Seaman
Seaman's Elevator
Red Lodge, Montana

Mr. Ed Castagne
New Deal Bar
Roberts, Montana

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Pay'n Takit Grocery
Ennis, Montana

Mae Sellards
Old Faithful Inn
Gallatin Gateway, Montana

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Bar-O-Bar
Roscoe, Montana

Mr. Alex Parsnick
Garage
Harrison, Montana

Mr. James DeJong
Church Hill Shopping Center
Manhattan, Montana

Mr. Maurice Werner
Central Grocery
Roundup, Montana

Mr. John Cebull
Central Grocery
Roundup, Montana

Marvin Croston
Stockman Bar
Manhattan, Montana

Mr. Tom Schauf
Ryegate Bar
Ryegate, Montana

Mr. Jack Paul
Stockman Exchange
Manhattan, Montana

Mr. Jens Skilbred
Shawmut Service Sta.
Shawmut, Montana

Mr. Leo Pope
American Legion Club
Manhattan, Montana

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Shepherd Mercantile Co.
Shepherd, Montana

Mr. Ed Denke
Grocery
Norris, Montana

Mr. James S. Butler
Gen. Merc. Store
Silesia, Montana

Mr. Fred Lane
Fred's Place
Three Forks, Montana

Mr. Howard Curry
Curry Garage
Wyola, Montana

Victor Magnus
Farmers Union Trading Post
Alder, Montana

Mr. Francis Miller
Mint Bar & Cafe
Belgrade, Montana

Ray Wilkinson
Wilkinson Grocery
Cardwell, Montana

Mr. Leonard McAtee
Cameron Store
Cameron, Montana

Mr. Frank Actis
Actis Grocery Store
Melrose, Montana

Mr. Glen Coutts
Farmers Union Oil Co.
Richey, Montana

Mr. T. A. Cornett
Pool Hall
Pendroy, Montana

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Jim's Barber Shop
Wibaux, Montana

Mr. Cliff Frank
Fender Chev. Co.
Belt, Montana

Mr. Earl Watson
Conoco Service Station
Cascade, Montana

Harry Friberg
General Mills Elevator
Ulm, Montana

Mr. Jim Dellwo
Real Estate Office
Choteau, Montana

Mr. J. R. Decker
Case Implement Co.
Dutton, Montana

Mr. Jake Dirkes
Phillips 66 Service Station
Fairfield, Montana

George Ranning
City Marshall
Fort Benton, Montana

Nan Tripplett
Grocery Store
Geyser, Montana

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Darmont Hotel
Darby, Montana

Mr. Paul Dayton, Prop.
Casey's Store
East Victor, Montana

Mr. Ken Avery
Ken's Club
Stevensville, Montana

Mr. Elmer G. Poll
Sula Store
Sula, Montana

Claim Sham
Centennial Elevator Operator
Big Sandy, Montana

Keller & Graham
Bar X Cafe
Chinook, Montana

Eva Erlandson
Fresno Tavern
Fresno, Montana

Mr. Norman McGuire
Harlem Pool
Harlem, Montana

John Hultin
International Elevator Operator
Hingham, Montana

Mr. Kenneth Hanson
Service Station
Hingham, Montana

Harry Odden
Texaco Service
Sheridan, Montana

J. F. Jenkins
R & J Service
Twin Bridges, Montana

Otto Grauman & Son
Jefferson Drain Co.
Whitehall, Montana

Mr. G. V. Johnson
Johnson's Station
Browning, Montana

Mr. John V. Anderson
North Reservation District
Cut Bank, Montana

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Del Bonita District
Cut Bank, Montana

Art Pehlke
Tower Service Station
Saco, Montana

Mr. Arthur Heppler
Santa Rita Tavern
Santa Rita, Montana

Mr. N. J. Brandt
Whitewater General Store
Whitewater, Montana

Mr. Keith Boetticher
Jackson, Montana

Mr. Phil Lyons
Lima, Montana

Mr. Joe Mihelist
Lima, Montana

Mr. Ed Young
Dodson Hotel
Dodson, Montana

Jim Painter
City Marshall
Geraldine, Montana

Mr. Ben Decker
Decker Motor Sales
Frazer, Montana

Bruce Schuler
T.U. Station
Hinsdale, Montana

Carroll Hanson
Conoco Service
Malta, Montana

Mr. Vernon Dastert
Vic's Bar
Nashua, Montana

Mr. Elmer Walstad
Helleckson Lumber
Opheim, Montana

